

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 EB-11 H-03 SS-20 NSC-10 DODE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01

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R 281624Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9727

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 0534

E.O*. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, BE

SUBJECT: BURDENSARING

REF: USNATO 0246

1. IN A CONVERSATION ON JANUARY 25, LARGELY DEVOTED TO OTHER TOPICS, WITH VAN YPERSELE (SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE LAST TWO BELGIAN FINANCE MINISTERS), WE EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE OF THE BELGIANS ON JACKSON-NUNN AND BURDENSARING FOR NATO.

2. VAN YPERSELE CONFIRMED BELGIAN DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL. HE SAID THAT,*IN ANY EVENT, GIVEN THE 22 MONTH PERIOD AVAILABLE UNDER THE JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT, THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM EVEN IN NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN COVERING BOP IMPACT OF US FORCES IN BELGIUM. IN THE CASE OF NATO BUDGETS ANY INCREASE IN BELGIAN SHARE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE LARGE IN ABSOLUTE TERMS. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE BELGIANS WOULD NOT
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ACCEPT AN OBLIGATION TO COVER IN MILITARY PURCHASES MORE THAN

THE AMOUNT OF US MILITARY EXPENDITURES IN BELGIUM. BY THE SAME TOKEN, HE SAID THE BELGIANS WERE NOT INTERESTED IN A MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO THE BOP PROBLEM. HE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE BRITISH COULD NOT BE OF MUCH ASSISTANCE A MULTILATERAL APPROACH WOULD BOIL DOWN TO AN ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING THE FRG AND BENELUX.

3. IN RESPONSE TO OUR REITERATION THE US DESIRE FOR A MULTILATERAL APPROACH, VAN YPERSELE CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF OUR DESIRES BUT, EXCEPT FOR DEALING WITH NATO BUDGET COST, HE DID NOT THINK A MULTILATERAL APPROACH WAS POSSIBLE. STRAUSS-KHOF

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUDGET, MILITARY EXPENDITURES, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRUSSE00534
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740113/aaaaalfz.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 0246
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <30 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BURDENSARING
TAGS: MCAP, BE, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005